



5 September 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Super Typhoon Pongsona on Guam - U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Response

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. On 8 December 2002, President Bush declared Guam a federal disaster area under Disaster Declaration Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), based on the devastation caused by Pongsona. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and the Federal Response Plan (FRP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides engineering and public works assistance, as directed by FEMA, to state and local Governments following such declarations.

b. All response activity is physically complete with the exception of the restoration of all emergency generators to fully mission capable. Response work involved \$38,515,000 in authorized funds: \$37,690,000 in FEMA authorized funds for 11 missions on Guam and 3 missions on Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and \$825,000 in USACE authorized Code 210, Emergency Operations funds under USACE own authority, Public Law 84-99, Flood Control & Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) Program. All funds were utilized for Guam, except for \$80,000 utilized for the CNMI.

c. USACE Planning & Response Teams (PRTs), response cadre, volunteers, and subject-matter-experts (SMEs) from most of the USACE's 41 Districts throughout the world were involved in the Pongsona response efforts. In early January 2003, the USACE response organization consisted of over 150 persons.

d. Under the leadership of the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), an Interagency Group to Rebuild Guam and the CNMI convened on 24 April 2003 in Washington, DC. The USACE participated in the dialogue and will continue in future meetings. The USACE, at this time, is limited to providing technical, design, construction, and related contracting assistance as funded by other Federal grant agencies. There has been no further taskings or communication from DOI to USACE specifically for the rebuilding effort, to date.

3. Congressional Interest. Representative Bordallo is highly interested in Federal assistance in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Pongsona, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers role.